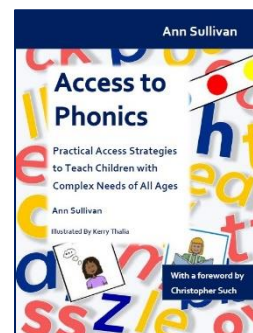




## Read the Reviews!

# Access to Phonics: Practical Access Strategies to Teach Children with Complex Needs of All Ages



## Clair Wilson of Phonic Books

Becoming a reader is one of the biggest learning challenges we undertake as humans and this journey can be even more arduous for pupils with additional learning needs. This book is an absolute goldmine of information on how to adapt the way you teach reading to suit the learning needs of pupils with specific and complex needs. Carefully thought-out strategies are underlined by practical experience and backed by research. The author has direct experience of working with a range of pupils with a wide range of different complex needs and this experience and her commitment to helping those children learn is what marks this book out. It's a practical guide written with compassion and experience, and it's designed to educate and to help teachers in both specialist and mainstream classrooms who are working with pupils with these challenges. And help it will.

The engaging question and answer format presents a clear argument for an evidence-led, phonic approach to teaching reading and is mindful of the importance of teaching the bigger picture of reading instruction and how this might be planned for. A careful analysis of the different forms of phonic teaching is followed by very specific guidance on ways to adapt teaching reading for pupils with a range of complex needs, including those who are preverbal or nonverbal. Clear practical advice, backed up by solid research and experience and delivered with compassion, humour and clarity marks out every chapter. What shines out consistently throughout the book is the author's commitment to equity. Everyone has the right to learn how to read and the author offers practical support and resources on how to make this possible.

This is a fascinating book that will help you stand alongside pupils with complex learning needs and gain some understanding and insight into the issues they are facing. It will then tell you how to help them. My personal favourite takeaway? It's got to be the 'Big Oops!' reading strategy! I loved this book so much I've read it twice already. It is an excellent guide on teaching reading for teachers working with all pupils, including and specifically those with complex learning needs, and should be read by anyone interested in understanding how to make the sometimes-challenging journey to becoming a reader actually work. It's definitely going on my resources shelf, and I know it will be well thumbed!



## John Walker of Sounds-Write

It seems amazing that we have to be reminded by Ann Sullivan that, while in mainstream schools in England phonics has been ‘taught as the foundation of reading since 2007’, it took until 2021 for the Department of Education in England to recommend phonics teaching for pupils with ‘moderate to severe and complex needs’.

Now that Ann has written this very practical book there is no, excuse for schools to ignore this because the book addresses the significant issues of how these children learn to read and the role of language comprehension in teaching reading.

Probably the most compelling of Ann’s arguments lies in her insistence that phonics is not ‘too complex for SEND pupils to navigate, learn and use’.

I thoroughly recommend this book.

John Walker

Sounds-Write



**Sounds-Write**  
FIRST RATE PHONICS

## Faith Borkowsky of High Five Literacy

Ann shares her hands-on practical strategies that help children with complex needs succeed with any phonics program!

This will be indispensable for special education teachers working in self-contained classrooms.

I will be recommending this book.  
It's a gem!



## **Dr Sarah Moseley** **Educational Consultant & Author**

Having worked with Ann for several years it was a pleasure to be asked to review her new book *Access to Phonics*. *Access to phonics* provides practical strategies and approaches to teach this essential aspect of learning to read to all learners. It provides clear and concise explanations of the key issues that create barriers to learning phonics for children and young people with complex needs. It provides clearly illustrated strategies, approaches and ideas for supporting these barriers within the classroom. Anns in depth knowledge and understanding of this area shines through every page!

The book is a treasure trove of resources that will deepen your understanding of teaching reading, using a more inclusive approach for all learners. It is an essential purchase for every classroom.

Sarah is the author of 'Teaching Reading to All Learners Including Those with Complex Needs: A Framework for Progression within an Inclusive Reading Curriculum

